

Congressman Pence's visit to St. Bartholomew Catholic School yesterday made [the front page of the Columbus Republic](#) today:



[Pence answers St. B's students](#)

BY KIRK JOHANNESSEN

U.S. Rep. Mike Pence, R-Ind., returned to his grade school alma mater Thursday to talk with students about a congressman's job, and to answer their questions.

A female student at St. Bartholomew Catholic School asked Pence if he always wanted to be a congressman.

"Yes," the 1974 St. B grad replied. "It's a little embarrassing." Pence explained he had a memorabilia box growing up, and in it he put political mementos, including those of President John F. Kennedy and former U.S. Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., the 1964 Republican presidential candidate. He said politics influenced him to believe anybody could be anything. "I was right," he said. St. B students in Grades 5 through 8 assembled in the gymnasium, and first watched a short video in which Pence explained the average day of a congressman. The video addressed how the House of Representatives operates and the functions of committees. It also told of a congressman's other duties, such as meeting with constituents and answering questions from the media.

After the video, Pence answered students' questions for nearly 40 minutes. Questions ranged

from aspects of his personal life to growing up in Columbus to his job in Congress, including:

- Do you ever regret being a congressman?

"No, I never have. But, there have been some hard times," Pence said. "I've been to the funerals of 10 soldiers in our (district) that died in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan. That's a challenging thing to do because you feel very small."

- What is your favorite monument in Washington?

Pence said it's the Lincoln Memorial, because it "celebrates the preservation of the union."

- What do you do for fun?

"I hang out with my homies,"

Pence said. "I have a PhD in DAD." Pence said he enjoys time with his family, but added that horseback riding is another favorite activity.

- Do you have any cats?

Pence explained that his small house in the Washington, D.C. area includes two cats (Oreo and Pickle), a dog (Maverick), three teenagers, him and his wife.

- Would you have signed the Declaration of Independence?

Pence had told the students that he studied the country's Revolutionary Period in college, and admired the Founders' courage.

"You know, I would like to think that I would have," Pence answered, noting the importance of freedom and liberty. "But, I wouldn't presume to say I would have."

- What is the election process like?

"It can be kind of tough," Pence said, explaining that all the organizing, campaigning and fundraising takes a lot of time."

- What is your favorite part of the job?

"My most favorite is the opportunity we have to be encouragement to people in Indiana with people that are struggling, and for soldiers to say we're thinking of you and make sure they have everything they need."